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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	USSR (Lithuanian SSR)	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Soviet Naval Vessels in Klaipeda Harbor	DATE DISTR.	24 August 1954
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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

1. [] ship was in the port of Klaipeda from 22 to 27 March 1954. For a sketch of the harbor area see page 3.
2. At 0630 hours on 22 March 1954, a small group of Soviet naval vessels consisting of three submarines and a small surface vessel was observed leaving Klaipeda Harbor. Soviet naval vessels moored in Klaipeda Harbor included: a former German M-type minesweeper [] five submarines including [] one submarine tender [] five small naval vessels including [] three PT boats including [] one naval tanker, and between 20 and 30 small landing craft. 25X1
3. Vessel [] was believed to be a former German M-40 type minesweeper. It had a gun of between 80 and 100 millimeters on the foredeck and a 20-mm four-barreled machine gun mounted on a pedestal aft of the stack. 25X1
4. The five submarines, which were all similar, had a displacement of about 500 tons each. They were between 50 and 60 meters long. Each submarine had a round bow, a light gun forward of the conning tower, but no net cutter. Each conning tower was round and unbroken forward and was fitted with a step aft. 25X1
5. The submarine tender or repair ship [] was a freighter of about 6,000 DWT and was painted gray. It was equipped with numerous antiaircraft guns. On one of the days between 22 and 27 March 1954, it was observed supplying a submarine with four torpedoes. 25X1
6. Vessels [] and three other vessels each about 45 meters long, had sharply raked bows fitted with paravane gear. Each vessel had a gun of about 75 millimeters on the foredeck, and a 20-mm four-barreled machine gun mounted on a pedestal aft of it. A small mast and a directional loop (D/F) antenna was on the bridge, which was rather flat and had rounded corners. A squat stack with a slanting hood projected from a low deck structure just aft of the 25X1

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bridge. Two 20-mm twin-barreled machine guns, one each on the starboard and the port side abreast the deck superstructures, and two 37-mm antiaircraft guns, one each on the starboard and port side of the fantail, were mounted on the ship. Depth charges were piled up in two tiers on each side of the stern.

7. The PT boats observed were American ELCO-type vessels, about 25 meters long. A pear-shaped radar scanner was located on a small mast which projected from the low bridge. A 37-mm gun was located on the foredeck, and there was a torpedo tube on each side of the bridge. Two antiaircraft machine guns were located forward of the companionway on the fantail.
8. The naval tanker observed was about 3,000 tons; it was painted gray and carried the Soviet ensign. It was a typical tanker with a slightly raised forecastle. A catwalk linked the forward section with the bridge superstructures.
9. The mastless landing crafts, which were of different types, were between 20 and 30 meters long and had sharply raked bows. No deck structures were seen, except for the aftermost third of the fantail, which formed a superstructure for the conning position. None of the vessels left Klaipeda while [] ship was in the harbor.
10. Soviet naval vessels left port and returned to the harbor at irregular intervals. The first vessel to leave port early in the morning was a naval tugboat towing a target. This target, 5 meters high and 20 meters long, was mounted on a float and consisted of a canvas-covered frame. The target was more or less damaged when it was towed into port in the late hours of the day. About two hours after the naval tug had put to sea, several submarines left harbor in the wake of M-type minesweeper []; they were followed by five naval vessels and a PT boat. All these vessels returned to port as a group during the late hours of the day, or occasionally even after dusk.

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Legend to the Sketch of Klaipeda Harbor:

1. Anchorage of [] ship.
2. Berth of [] ship while it took on 1,175 tons of anthracite.
3. Berths of M-type minesweeper [] and the three PT boats.
4. Berths of the submarines and the five small naval vessels.
5. Berth of submarine tender []
6. Berth of the naval tanker.
7. Berth of the landing crafts.
8. Shipyard installations with three large building slips. Round-the-clock work was done in the shipyard.
9. Approximate position of a battery whose firing could be observed. The battery itself, which was blocked from view, fired only during daylight.
10. Railroad tracks.
11. Soviet railroad battery of eight guns each mounted on a four-axled flatcar. A caboose was on the second track away from the railroad battery. An antiaircraft-gun car each carrying a four-barreled antiaircraft gun was forward of the caboose, and another antiaircraft-gun-car was aft of it.
12. Four guns with an estimated caliber of about 150 millimeters each. They were emplaced behind a concrete wall one and a half meters high. Both this battery and the railroad battery fired several times in a seaward direction during informant's stay in harbor.
13. A radar gear located at the end of a small wooded area. The radar device was fitted on a trellis mast about 20 meters high; it was three or four meters wide and two meters high.
14. A large number of wooden towers between 10 and 15 meters high with anti-aircraft guns atop; there were searchlights on some of the towers. These towers were erected in the area between the railroad battery and the radar gear. --(See No. 13)

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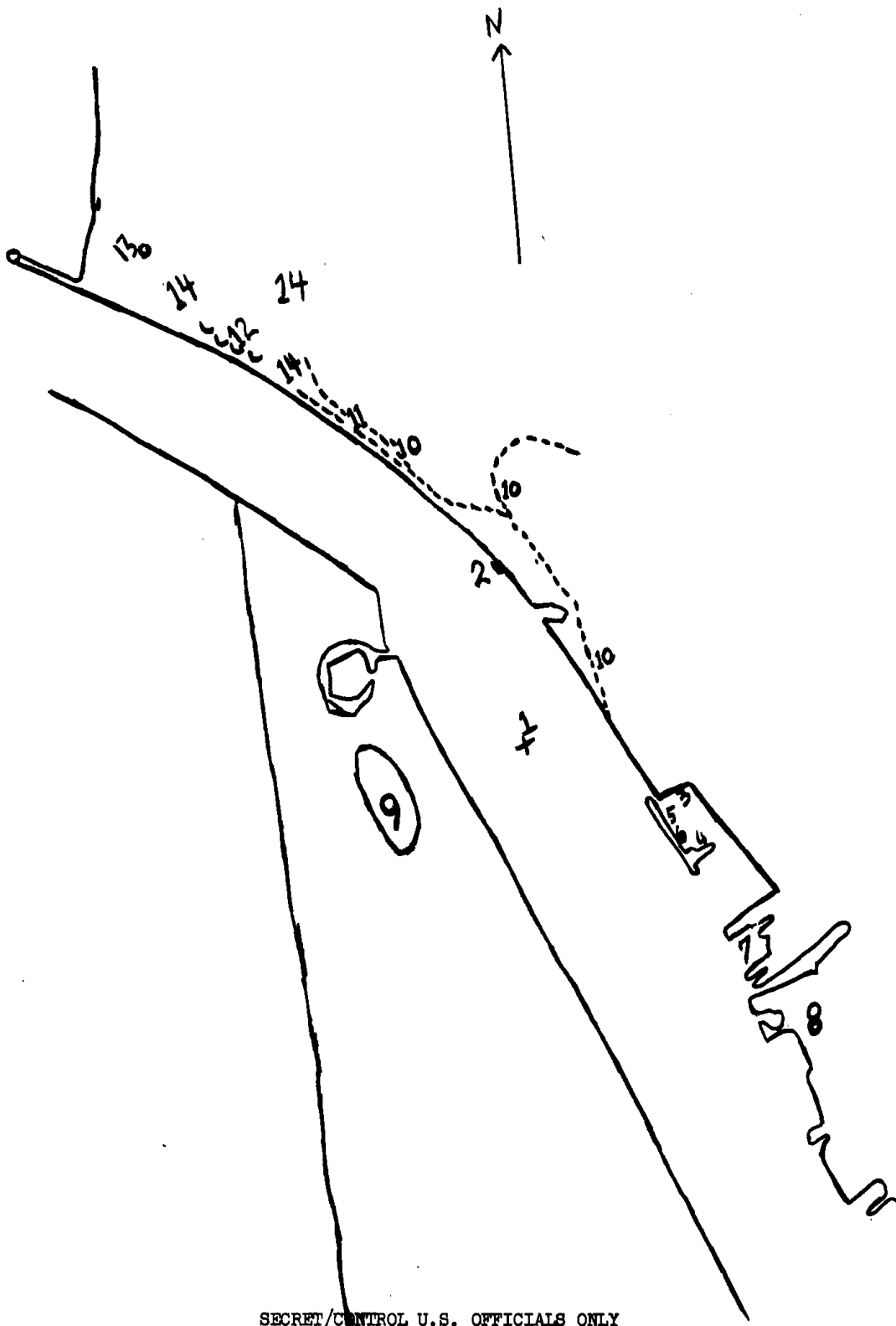
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Sketch of Klaipeda Harbor:



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